

SENATE—Wednesday, March 3, 1999

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Lord of all life, thank You for the gift of time. You have given us the hours of this day to work for Your glory by serving our Nation. Remind us that there is enough time in any one day to do what You want us to accomplish. Release us from that rushed feeling when we overload Your agenda for us with added things which You may not have intended for us to cram into today. Help us to live on Your timing. Grant us serenity when we feel irritated by trifling annoyances, by temporary frustration, by little things to which we must give our time and attention. May we do what the moment demands with a glad heart. Give us the courage to carve out time for quiet thought and creative planning to focus our attention on the big things we must debate and eventually decide with a decisive vote. Help us to be silent, wait on You, and receive Your guidance. May the people we serve and those with whom we work sense that, in the midst of the pressures of political life, we have had our minds replenished by listening to You. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. JEFFORDS. This morning the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 280, the Education Flexibility Partnership Act. There are 4 hours remaining for debate on the motion to proceed, with Senator WELLSTONE to control 3 hours 30 minutes and Senator JEFFORDS or his designee in control of the remaining 30 minutes.

Under a previous order, at the conclusion or yielding back of debate time, the Senate will proceed to vote on the motion to proceed. If the motion is adopted, the Senate will begin consideration of the bill itself, with amendments being offered and debated during today's session. Therefore, Members should expect votes throughout Wednesday's session.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

Mr. President, I make a point of order that a quorum is not present.

Mrs. LINCOLN. I ask my colleague if he will withhold his request.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Certainly.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business, and I would like to charge that time to my colleague, Mr. WELLSTONE.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. LINCOLN. I thank the Chair.

PROMOTION OF COMMANDER MICKEY ROSS

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I am honored this morning to recognize Commander Mickey Vernon Ross, a great American from Arkansas who later today will be promoted to the rank of Captain in the United States Navy. With his promotion to Captain, Commander Ross not only earns the respect and admiration of his country, he also earns a place in Arkansas history, becoming the first African-American from our state to attain that high rank.

Commander Ross is a native of North Little Rock and comes from a proud family with a long record of military service, following his father and three older brothers into the Armed Services. His father is no longer with us, but his mother, Minnie P. Ross, has traveled from Arkansas to be at the ceremony formally recognizing her son's promotion today. As you might imagine, she is overjoyed knowing how hard her son has worked to accomplish this feat. His wife, Mary Ann Ross, of Elaine, Arkansas, which is my home area, and their two children, Timothy, age 14, and Benjamin, age 6, will also be on hand to celebrate this momentous occasion.

From an early age, Commander Ross has exhibited excellence in all aspects of his life—academically, professionally and personally. More than that, in a world short on heroes and role models to guide our children, Commander Ross is a shining example of the brilliant promise every life holds. Hard work and an eager spirit still equal success in America—no matter how difficult the challenges may be. It is my privilege—indeed, my duty as a voice for my state—to hold him up as an example for others to see.

After graduating from North Little Rock High School in 1973, Commander Ross attended the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, where he was commissioned an Ensign and graduated in 1977 with a degree in

Physical Science. In 1983, Commander Ross received a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. Currently, Commander Ross is pursuing a doctoral degree in Engineering Management at George Washington University.

As an officer in the Navy, Commander Ross has served his country with distinction. His first tour of duty was onboard the U.S.S. *Ranger* CV 61 where he helped the command receive top honors, the No. 1 Recruiting District in the Nation. Later, on the U.S.S. *Acadia* as the Repair Officer, his department received the highest award for fleet maintenance support and the ship received the Navy "E" award from Commander Naval Surface Forces, Pacific. And I couldn't help but notice that in between his many assignments, Commander Ross found time to return to Arkansas to recruit Naval Officers at colleges and universities in our state. Today, Commander Ross is Director for Combat Systems for the Program Executive Officer for Aircraft Carriers at the Naval Sea Systems Command in Arlington, Virginia.

But Commander Ross' record as a student and a Naval Officer aren't the only things for which I want to commend him this morning. Commander Ross is also a devoted husband and a wonderful father. His wife, Mary Anne, and their children must be very proud of him today.

My father fought in Korea and my grandfather fought in World War I and they taught me at an early age to have the highest respect for the men and women in uniform who defend our nation. On behalf of the state of Arkansas and the United States Senate, I thank you, Commander Ross, for your service to our country. I hope the honor you bestow on your family, our state and our nation today inspires others to follow your example. I, for one, will be following your career with great interest and I suspect this will not be my last opportunity to recognize an outstanding achievement in your life.

I thank you, Mr. President.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 350

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, a bill is at the desk due for its second reading. I ask it be read.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 350) to improve congressional deliberation on proposed Federal private sector mandates, and for other purposes.